

September 6, 2016

Dear Chorus Members and Parents:

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! As I begin my 34th year as the Choral Director at Midlothian High School, I am very excited about this school year. With your talents, enthusiasm, and energy we should enjoy many musical successes throughout the school year.

During the year we hope to experience as many different styles of choral literature as possible: classical religious, classical secular, contemporary, jazz, gospel, pop, etc. In order to cover as much ground as possible, I will emphasize the importance of self-discipline and team effort in and out of the classroom. I expect each student to become aware of our class and school expectations and make every effort to live up to those expectations. Unfortunately, it only takes one or two disruptive or negative students to demoralize the spirit of the entire group. I may be calling on parents from time to time to help underscore those expectations for your son/daughter.

In the following pages, I have attempted to share with you as much information as possible. **Parents and students are encouraged to sign up to receive parent emails, check our website (www.midlochorus.org) and sign up for AmazonSmile.com using Midlothian High School Chorus Boosters as your charity.** Calendar changes and announcements will be distributed using Synergy, Remind.com and Facebook. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call.

I want to encourage parents to attend the Choral Boosters meetings. It has been a joy to work with the Boosters for the past fourteen years. The Chorus Boosters will continue with two Presidents and various event chairmen. Our Presidents for this year will be Kim Murphy and Donna Taylor. Our committee-driven structure makes the best use of our volunteers, and the volunteer spreadsheet has been posted on our website. Parents are encouraged to check the volunteer spreadsheet **BEFORE** signing up to volunteer. The Chorus Boosters meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Chorus room.

Students, it is your responsibility to (1) return the Signature Sheet indicating that you and your parents have read through this pamphlet, (2) return the completed Medical Release/Field Trip Form which we will use throughout the year, (3) and submit the \$10.00 Music Fee by Friday, September 9, 2016.

Looking forward to a GREAT YEAR!!

***Have you checked out the Chorus website??
www.midlochorus.org Have you designated Midlothian High School Chorus Boosters as your charity on AmazonSmile.com??***

CLASS MANAGEMENT

It is imperative that every member of the class contributes to the positive rehearsal atmosphere of the class by observing these few guidelines:

- 1) Be on time to class...get your folder and be seated before the bell rings.
- 2) Keep a pencil in your folder at all times.
- 3) Mark your music when editorial suggestions are made by the director.
- 4) Leave all books, purses, etc. next to the side walls during class.
- 5) Practice good posture anytime you are singing.
- 6) File your folder at the end of each class.
- 7) Remain quiet while individual sections within the choir are rehearsing.

SECURITY OF PROPERTY

In order to protect your property (dresses, pants, shoes, etc.), **please make certain that your name is in each article of clothing. Everyone needs to put his/her name on each part of his/her outfit.**

SHOW CHOIR COMPETITIONS AND TRIPS

From past experiences, we have found that the show choirs enjoy the challenge of competing against other show choirs. Most of these competition events involve out-of-town trips. In no way are these competitions essential to the curriculum of the class; however, the competitions do establish goals, challenge the students to do their best, provide performance opportunities, and develop confidence on stage. When, and if, the group decides to participate in an event, each member of the group will be expected to participate, and all vocal arrangements and choreography will be planned accordingly. The success of the group depends on balance and a relaxed, confident attitude on stage based on partner reliability and team effort. Students and parents should carefully consider the financial obligations before voting to participate in any competition trips.

CURRICULAR PERFORMANCES

Several major rehearsals and performances are considered essential to the class curriculum. Participation in these rehearsals and performances is mandatory and constitutes a major influence on the nine weeks grade. These dates will be announced on the first day of school.

FOOD AND DRINKS IN THE CHORUS ROOM AND THEATRE

To maintain a desirable workplace, protect our performance site, and promote the optimal conditions for singing, we will firmly enforce the school policy of not allowing drinks and any kind of food (including chewing gum) in the Chorus room.

PAYMENT OF FEES, DEPOSITS, ETC.

Certain classes (especially the show choirs) will have various fees, outfit expenses, travel expenses, fundraisers, etc. A due date will be assigned each time any kind of payment needs to be submitted. Students are expected to adhere to these due dates so that the director may submit payments from the school on time (i.e. material to make dresses, bus fare and/or hotel costs for a show choir trip, proceeds from a fundraiser, etc.) As previously discussed in our June meeting all members of the two show choirs will be required to pay a \$276.00 county-approved show choir fee. This fee is in addition to the Chesterfield County music fee (\$10.00). **The Show Choir fee is due September 29, 2016.** (Students enrolled in two show choirs will only pay **one** fee.)

ALTERNATE PAYMENT PLAN

In the event that the expenses of participating in a chorus (especially a show choir!) become too burdensome or the payments fall at an inconvenient time for you, please contact Mrs. Graham for an alternate payment plan. The responsibility of requesting such a plan rests totally with you, the students, and parents, and should be handled well in advance of any payment's due date.

OUTFITS

Each student will be required to purchase a uniform outfit for his/her respective class. The cost of these outfits varies from class to class. Students (in certain classes) may purchase used outfits for a reduced price when available. Each Chorus class will receive complete information about outfits in later memos.

CHORUS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sep 13	7 pm	Booster meeting Chorus room #401
Sep 15	2:15 – 8 pm	*Just For Show choreography with Terrell Dean
Sep 16	2:15 - 5:30 pm	*Just For Show choreography with Terrell Dean
Sep 17	9 – 8 pm	*Just For Show choreography with Terrell Dean
Sep 19-Oct 6	all day	VA Diner peanut sales begin
Sep 23	2:15 – 5:30 pm	*City Lights Choreography Session with Ashley Carr
Sep 24	9-3 pm	*City Lights Choreography Session with Ashley Carr
Sep 26 pm	6-9 pm	City Lights & Just For Show rehearsal – Show Choir room CL 6-7:30 pm JFS 7:30-9
Sep 29		Show Choir fee due - \$276.00 made payable to Midlothian HS
Oct 3 pm	6-9 pm	City Lights & Just For Show rehearsal – Show Choir room CL 6-7:30 pm JFS 7:30-9
Oct 4	All day	All County Chorus – Cosby High School
Oct 10 pm	6-9 pm	City Lights & Just For Show rehearsal – Show Choir room CL 6-7:30 pm JFS 7:30-9
Oct 11	7 pm	Booster meeting - Chorus room #401
Oct 12 & 13	2 pm	Talent Show auditions - Chorus room
Oct 17 pm	6-9 pm	City Lights & Just For Show rehearsal – Show Choir room CL 6-7:30 pm JFS 7:30-9
Oct 20	7:30 pm	Talent Show – aud
Oct 24 pm	6-9 pm	City Lights & Just For Show rehearsal – Show Choir room CL 6-7:30 pm JFS 7:30-9
Nov 1	7 pm	Booster meeting – Chorus room
Nov 2	2 pm	Tri-M meeting – Chorus room; elect officers and plan induction ceremony
Nov 3	2:45 pm	*Fall Concert rehearsal – Huguenot Rd Baptist Church 10525 W Huguenot Road
Nov 3	7:30 pm	*FALL CONCERT - Huguenot Rd Baptist Church 10525 W Huguenot
Nov 7 & 8	9-5 pm	*Just For Show choreography with Terrell Dean
Nov 11	2:15 – 6 pm	*City Lights Choreography Session with Ashley Carr
Nov 12	12-6 pm	*City Lights Choreography Session with Ashley Carr
Nov 12	Morning	All-District Chorus auditions – Manchester High School
Nov 14 pm	6-9 pm	City Lights & Just For Show rehearsal – Show Choir room CL 6-7:30 pm JFS 7:30-9
Nov 15	2 pm	Tri-M Induction Ceremony – Closed Commons
Nov 21 pm	6-9 pm	City Lights & Just For Show rehearsal – Show Choir room CL 6-7:30 pm JFS 7:30-9
Nov 28 pm	6-9 pm	City Lights & Just For Show rehearsal – Show Choir room CL 6-7:30 pm JFS 7:30-9
Dec 2	Afternoon/Evening	*State Choral Assessment – Clover Hill HS (All Choruses)
Dec 6	7 pm	December Chorus Boosters meeting
Dec 7	2-5 pm	*Winter Concert rehearsal – All Choruses
Dec 8	Period 2e	*Holiday Music Assembly – All Choruses

Dec 8	7:30 pm	*MUSIC DEPARTMENT WINTER CONCERT (All Choruses)
Dec 9	2:30-4 pm	Tri-M service project
Jan 2	6-9 pm	City Lights & Just For Show rehearsal – Stage CL 6-7:30 pm JFS 7:30-9 pm
Jan 3	7 pm	January Boosters meeting – Chorus room
Jan 9	6-9 pm	City Lights & Just For Show rehearsal – Stage CL 6-7:30 pm JFS 7:30-9 pm
Jan 13	2:15 – 6 pm	*Just For Show Choreography with Terrell Dean & show choir band on stage
Jan 14	9-8 pm	*Just For Show Choreography with Terrell Dean & show choir band on stage
Jan 23 pm	6-9 pm	City Lights & Just For Show rehearsal – Show Choir room CL 6-7:30 pm JFS 7:30-9
Feb 3	2:15 – 6 pm	*City Lights Choreography with Ashley Carr & show choir band
Feb 4	9-3 pm	*City Lights Choreography with Ashley Carr & show choir band
Feb 6 pm	6-9 pm	City Lights & Just For Show rehearsal – Show Choir room CL 6-7:30 pm JFS 7:30-9
Feb 7	7 pm	February Boosters meeting – Chorus room
Feb 12-13		All-District Chorus & All State auditions – Meadowbrook High School
Feb 13	6-9 pm	City Lights & Just For Show rehearsal – stage CL 6-7:30 pm JFS 7:30-9 pm
Feb 16	Day	City Lights & Just For Show to elementary & middle schools
Feb 17	7 pm	*Night of Stars Scholarship Fund Raiser (City Lights & Just For Show)
Feb 21	6-9 pm	City Lights & Just For Show rehearsal – stage CL 6-7:30 pm JFS 7:30-9 pm
Feb 24-26 Show)		Lakeside Georgia Vocal Invitational – Evans, GA (City Lights & Just For
Mar 2	7 pm	*PYRAMID CONCERT – All Choruses
Mar 3	Fri pm	*Central Virginia Show Choir Invitational– Manchester HS (City Lights)
Mar 4	Sat ???	*Central Virginia Show Choir Invitational - Manchester HS (JFS)
Mar 7	7 pm	Booster Meeting – Chorus room
Mar 17	Fri pm	*Hanover/Lee Davis HS Show Choir Invitational - Hanover HS (City Lights)
Mar 18	Sat ???	*Hanover/Lee Davis High School Show Choir Invitational - Hanover HS (JFS)
Mar 25	All Day	*Hampton Rds Show Choir Invitational – Kecoughtan HS (City Lights & JFS)
Apr 4	7 pm	April Boosters meeting – Chorus room
Apr 24	7 pm	District 3 All State rehearsal – Midlothian HS Chorus room
Apr 27-29		All-State Chorus Moss Center VA Tech
May 2	7 pm	May Boosters meeting – Chorus room
May 24	6-9 pm	*Chorus Spring Concert rehearsal (All Choruses)
May 25	7:30 pm	*SPRING CONCERT (All Choruses)
May 26	Period 2e	*Show Choir Assemblies
Jun 4	2:30 pm	*Baccalaureate – Just For Show & Chamber Ensemble
Jun 5	7 pm	June Booster & New Student Meeting - Auditorium
* Required dates		

TO: Parents and Students

FROM: Michelle G. Graham

RE: Signature Sheet

Each year parents are asked to assist us financially by becoming a Midlothian Chorus Patron. Chesterfield County provides only a fraction of the funds necessary to maintain the quality program that is expected by parents and students. Your contribution as a Patron supplies the necessary music, programs, and supplies that would be impossible if we relied solely on the funds provided by Chesterfield County. A complete list of PATRONS will be recognized on the back of each of our concert programs. ***Please check with your employer for matching gifts.***

I would like to become a Midlothian Chorus Patron. (Check one below)
Make checks payable to Midlothian High School.

BENEFACTOR (\$100.00 or more)

SPONSOR (\$50.00)

FRIEND (\$25.00)

Name as you wish it to appear in the program. _____

**Please return this sheet and the Medical
release/field trip form
to Mrs. Graham by Friday, September 9, 2016.**

**____ I have read the preceding handbook, calendar and Booster
volunteer sheet.**

____ I have signed up to receive Synergy emails.

**____ I have completed the medical release/field trip form in its
entirety.**

**____ I have elected *Midlothian High School Chorus Boosters* as
my charity on **AmazonSmile.com.****

Signature of parent/guardian

Signature of student

Date

Parent email address